d. of SEQ ID NO 4, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104; and

e. of SEQ ID NO 5, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104.--

--27. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises at least 40 amino acids of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO 1, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 1 to 5 and ending with an amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104, or a homologous sequence.--

--28. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 40 amino acids that is at least 85% identical to any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, and SEQ ID NO 5.--

--29. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 70 amino acid residues having an amino acid sequence that is identical or homologous to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, or SEQ ID NO 5 beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 70 to 104.--

--30. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 100 amino acid residues having an amino acid sequence that is identical or homologous to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, or SEQ ID NO 5 beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 100 to 104.--

--31. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1.--

--32. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1.--

--33. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide further comprises an additional cysteine residue.--

--34. (New) The peptide of claim 33, wherein the cysteine residue is located at one terminus of the peptide sequence.--

--35. (New) The peptide of claim 26, wherein the peptide is produced by organic synthesis.--

--36. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using Fmoc or Boc chemistry and an automated peptide synthesizer.--

--37. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using FastMoc chemistry.--

--38. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis is carried out under conditions such that the amino groups of the amino acids are protected with 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc) groups and side groups are protected with the following groups: the carboxyl or hydroxyl groups, respectively, of aspartic acid, glutamic acid, serine, threonine and tyrosine with O-t-butyl; the amino or imino group, respectively, of histidine, asparagine and glutamine with trityl; the amino group of lysine with t-butyloxycarbonyl; and the imino group of arginine with PMC and wherein the activation and coupling is done in the presence of HBTU/diisopropylethylamine, and wherein the peptide is deprotected with piperidine and the final product is N-terminally acetylated using acetic anhydride.--

--39. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using double couplings and acetylation with acetic anhydride at cycles 1-2, 4, 10-13, 17, 27, 32, 49, 59, 66, 75-78, 84-85, 88, 96-97 and 104-105.--

--40. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using TentaGel S RAM Spezial as a solid phase.--

--41. (New) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises adding a cysteine unit to the N-terminus or the C-terminus of the peptide.--

--42. (New) A method of forming a carrier-antigen complex, comprising linking the peptide of claim 1 to an antigen, thereby forming a carrier-antigen conjugate.--

--43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the antigen is selected from the group of polysaccharides consisting of lipopolysaccharides, O-antigens, bacterial membrane polysaccharides, capsular membrane polysaccharides and fungal membrane polysaccharides.--

--44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the antigen is Polysaccharide C of Neisseria meningitidis.--

--45. (New) A conjugate comprising the peptide of claim 26 and an immunoreactive molecule.
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--46. (New) The conjugate of claim 45, wherein the immunoreactive molecule is a polysaccharide.--

--47. (New) The conjugate of claim 45, further comprising an additional cysteine residue in the peptide, a bifunctional linker and a polysaccharide, wherein the peptide is bonded to the linker via the thiol group of the cysteine and the polysaccharide is bonded to the other functional group of the linker via a hydroxy, carboxy, or amino group.--

--48. (New) The conjugate of claim 45, wherein the polysaccharide is Polysaccharide C of Neisseria meningitidis.--